

Chairman Mitchell Berger to increase the DNC's financial support from Indian tribes, particularly gaming tribes.⁵²⁵

Soon after Crain embarked on this Indian-focused agenda, Mercer made him aware that he should “stay away” from Minnesota and Wisconsin tribes involved in the Hudson matter, whom Fowler and Mercer were handling.⁵²⁶ Crain recalled Mercer's explaining that he and Fowler were handling an issue of interest to these tribes on a casino matter, and telling Crain he “should not approach them for money because that was already being handled by [Mercer] or somebody in the chairman's office and possibly the Chairman.”⁵²⁷ Accordingly, Crain's early efforts in this regard did not target Minnesota or Wisconsin tribes.

In May 1995, Berger introduced Crain to Indian leaders and activists from Florida and set in motion a cultivation process that would peak in August 1995. One of the early steps in this process was Crain and Berger's effort to set up a June meeting in Washington for Indians from across the country to meet with Harold Ickes and leaders of the DNC and the Clinton/Gore '96 Committee. Crain, Sullivan and Berger communicated with Fowler, McAuliffe and Ickes about this proposal in May and June 1995. The idea was to provide a forum for discussion of ways that Native Americans could support the Administration and the President's re-election effort. These

⁵²⁵Crain said he also worked with volunteer John Garamendi of California (who subsequently became Deputy Secretary of the Interior) in connection with a May 10, 1995, Fowler visit to Los Angeles and other solicitation efforts in California. Garamendi introduced Crain to leaders of California gaming tribes, including officers of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, who by May had pledged \$100,000 to the Clinton/Gore '96 Committee, and who later that summer pledged \$100,000 to the DNC. At Crain's suggestion, Fowler was soliciting the Cabazon from May through the summer.

⁵²⁶Grand Jury Testimony of Adam Crain, Dec. 4, 1998, at 18-20.

⁵²⁷*Id.* at 18-21.